

## Welcome to the IRM Newsletter\*

### Information sharing, thoughtful discussion goal of new IRM newsletter

We are pleased to bring you the first issue of this newsletter covering developments in integrated resource management (IRM), one of the Alberta Government's means of achieving sustainable development in the province. In the past, Alberta has successfully managed multiple use activities on Crown land. There is a growing need, however, to better integrate land, water and air issues to ensure the future for our children. IRM is about finding the right balance between people, prosperity and preservation. While IRM applies across all of government, it primarily involves the

following four departments:

- Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development;
- Alberta Resource Development;
- Alberta Economic Development;
- Alberta Environment.

Alberta Environment is the lead department and its Integrated Resource Management Division is the catalyst for IRM. For more information check out the IRM website at:

<http://www.gov.ab.ca/env/forests/irm/index.html>

### IRM History

March 1999 - The Government of Alberta reaffirmed its commitment to the wise management of Alberta's natural resources and environment for the benefit of all Alberta's present and future generations in the strategy document *Alberta's Commitment to Sustainable Resource and Environmental Management*. The "commitment document" makes it clear that "the use of Alberta's natural resources shall be sustainable" and identifies IRM as one of the means to achieve that end.

### \*Name the Newsletter Contest

Send your suggestion for a name by e-mail to [nora.mortemore@gov.ab.ca](mailto:nora.mortemore@gov.ab.ca) by 4:30 p.m. March 16, 2001. The editorial board will select the name that most captures the essence of the newsletter's intent for information sharing and thoughtful discussion about IRM. The winner of the contest will be recognized in the next issue and will receive a prize.

### Quotable Quote

"Maintaining a sound and growing economy and a diverse, healthy environment is a challenge and a priority that must be shared by all that live in our province. Understanding the problems and achieving the solutions will require the collective resolve and action of individuals, communities, interest groups, industry and government. Our success will depend on how well we work together."

*Ralph Klein, Premier,  
Province of Alberta  
Foreword, Alberta's Commitment  
to Sustainable Resource and  
Environmental Management*

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## The NES Strategy - Planning for Sustainable Development

The Northern East Slopes (NES) Sustainable Resource and Environmental Management Strategy is an Alberta Government initiative announced in April 2000 to integrate economic, environmental and community values into a planning process to support its commitment for sustainable environmental management. This strategy, scheduled for completion in spring 2002, acts as a prototype for sustainable development in province. It will help guide the development of a provincial framework for integrated resource management (IRM) in other regions throughout Alberta.



"Integrated Resource Management recognizes that everything is connected to everything else and that the use of a resource for one purpose can affect both the use of that resource for other purposes and the management and use of other resources. That's why a prototype for regional integration is so important. Integrated strategies will help support Alberta's approach to sustainable resource and environmental management," said Dennis Quintilio, Executive Director of Alberta Environment's Ecological Landscape Division.

### Regional Vision

*"Integrated management of natural resources in a manner which ensures a healthy and sustainable environment, economy and community that can be enjoyed by present and future generations."*

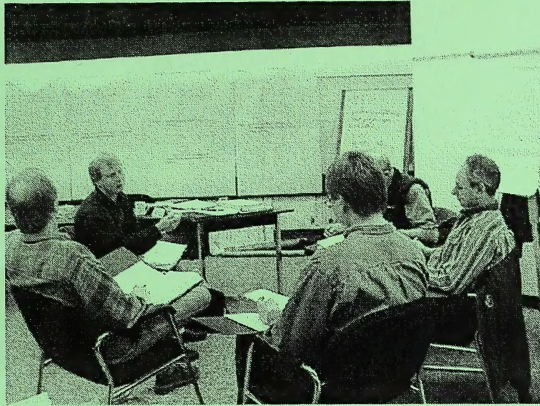
The purpose of the NES Strategy is to develop a process and implement a common set of goals and values for the region that balance use between diverse interests. The Strategy will work to enhance communication, cooperation and consultation among industries, communities, Aboriginal peoples and government by providing clear strategic direction for managing resources and addressing cumulative effects in the region. This will result in improved certainty, efficiency and effectiveness in land and resource management decisions.



## The NES Strategy continued

The Regional Steering Group (RSG) is responsible for leading the development of the NES Strategy. It is comprised of representatives from each of the four lead departments (Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Alberta Resource Development, Alberta Economic Development and Alberta Environment), one federal government representative, one municipal government representative, seven non-government citizen members and two Aboriginal members.

This group will develop recommendations for current and future resource management in the



Members of the Regional Steering Group at work

Northern East Slopes Region and submit these recommendations to the Ministers responsible for Integrated Resource Management for implementation through subregional tools and mechanisms.

To ensure the Strategy addresses the concerns of all those with an interest in the region, the RSG consulted with the municipal governments, Aboriginal communities, and hosted public meetings during October 2000 in Hinton, Edson, Grande Cache, Fox Creek, Whitecourt, Drayton Valley and Grande Prairie. Additional meetings

were held with major industries (forestry, oil and gas producers, agriculture and tourism) Aboriginal groups, environmental groups and federal, provincial and local government employees. These meetings discussed the vision, values and goals of the NES Strategy, the key framework statements around which the Strategy will be built.

The RSG reviewed the results of the public meetings and revised the vision, values and goals of the Strategy to reflect the comments and concerns raised during the consultations. The Aboriginal community consultation process was also reviewed and the RSG recognized that long-term commitment is needed to build working relationships with each individual community. The RSG submitted an interim report to the Minister of Environment on January 8, 2001. The report included:

- The process the RSG undertook to establish the framework vision, values and goals for the NES Strategy.
- A summary of the municipal, Aboriginal and public consultations with suggested improvements.
- Regional vision, values and goals that will lay the foundation for the future direction of the NES Strategy.
- Preliminary insights on the content and process that the RSG intends to consider during the NES Strategy.

### ***IRM Lingo: Definition of Sustainable Development***

*"Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." - The United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission)*



## The NES Strategy continued

### Regional Steering Group (RSG)

#### Members:

##### Government members

- ♦ Gerry Dubé, Alberta Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development
- ♦ Al Harlton, Alberta Economic Development
- ♦ Gary Mahon, West Central Mayors and Reeves Caucus
- ♦ Mike Poscente, RSG vice-chair, Alberta Environment
- ♦ Rhonda Wehrhahn, Alberta Resource Development
- ♦ Ron Hooper, Superintendent, Jasper National Park

##### Non-government citizen members

- ♦ Fred Munn, RSG chair
- ♦ Brad Johnston
- ♦ Brenda McFayden-Landry
- ♦ Jonathon Russell
- ♦ Rick Ksiezopolski
- ♦ Caroline Kutash
- ♦ Peter Aschenmeier

##### Aboriginal members

- ♦ David MacPhee
- ♦ Rod Alexis
- ♦ vacant seat

For more information about the NES Strategy, visit the Alberta Government's website at [www.gov.ab.ca/env/regions/neg](http://www.gov.ab.ca/env/regions/neg) or contact David Weeks at Alberta Environment in Edson: by e-mail at [David.Weeks@gov.ab.ca](mailto:David.Weeks@gov.ab.ca) or phone (780) 723-8266. You can call toll-free by dialing 310-0000 and then entering the number.

## More About The IRM Newsletter

We welcome your ideas in shaping the future of the newsletter, including its name! See the Name the Newsletter Contest on page 1. Once we've selected a name, the newsletter will be given an ISSN number and a more polished look for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and subsequent issues.

Through this newsletter we hope to create a forum of discussion and information sharing about IRM and its contributions to sustainable development in Alberta. Each issue will:

- Profile an IRM-related initiative;
- Bring you an historical IRM note;
- Define a term used when talking the language of IRM; and
- Feature a "quotable quote" from those involved in sustainable development in Alberta.

### Newsletter Objectives

- ♦ Support enhanced awareness and understanding of concepts, implementation initiatives, and educational and research activities relevant to IRM in Alberta by the newsletter's readership
- ♦ Profile and encourage thoughtful and leading edge integration mechanisms led by government, industry and community groups
- ♦ Ensure timely dissemination of information that reflects the readership's interests and needs.



## Integrated Resource Management Newsletter Editorial Board

We welcome your ideas in shaping the future of the newsletter. Please contact any of the Editorial Board members to make comments or suggestions.

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## Evaluation of the IRM newsletter

Your input will help us to ensure that the IRM newsletter disseminates information that reflects the interests and information needs of our readership. Please take a few moments to complete and return this evaluation. You can do this by:

- printing it out and faxing it to Nora Mortemore at (780) 421-0028 or
- copying the questions below, and pasting them into an e-mail to: [irm.newsletter@gov.ab.ca](mailto:irm.newsletter@gov.ab.ca)

1) Did **you** receive the first issue of the IRM newsletter?

- \_\_\_\_\_ yes, by e-mail
- \_\_\_\_\_ yes, a printed copy
- \_\_\_\_\_ no

2) How much of the first issue did **you** read?

- \_\_\_\_\_ none of it
- \_\_\_\_\_ skimmed some of it
- \_\_\_\_\_ skimmed all of it
- \_\_\_\_\_ skimmed some, read the rest
- \_\_\_\_\_ read it all

3) What part of the newsletter did you find **most** informative?

- \_\_\_\_\_ the Welcome to the IRM newsletter article
- \_\_\_\_\_ the NES Strategy article
- \_\_\_\_\_ the IRM Lingo information box
- \_\_\_\_\_ the IRM historical note
- \_\_\_\_\_ the Quotable Quote
- \_\_\_\_\_ none

4) What part of the newsletter did you find **least** informative?

- \_\_\_\_\_ the Welcome to the IRM newsletter article
- \_\_\_\_\_ the NES Strategy article
- \_\_\_\_\_ the IRM Lingo information box
- \_\_\_\_\_ the IRM historical note
- \_\_\_\_\_ the Quotable Quote
- \_\_\_\_\_ none

5) Overall, how **satisfied** are you that the newsletter reflects your interests and information needs?

- \_\_\_\_\_ not at all satisfied
- \_\_\_\_\_ not satisfied
- \_\_\_\_\_ neutral
- \_\_\_\_\_ satisfied
- \_\_\_\_\_ very satisfied

6) Would you like to **remain on the distribution list**?

- \_\_\_\_\_ no
- \_\_\_\_\_ yes

7) Other comments or suggestions?